

George Washington Papers, Series 3, Subseries 3B, Varick Transcripts, Letterbook 1

To THE OFFICER COMMANDING A PARTY OF RIFLEMEN, TO CAPE ANN

Head Quarters, August 16, 1775.

Sir: You are to proceed with the Detachment of Rifle-Men under your Command, to Cape Ann, where you are to endeavour not only to protect the Inhabitants from all Attempts of

the Enemy; but to do your utmost to distress and annoy any Detachment from the ministerial Army that may be sent from Boston, to plunder, or destroy that Settlement. Upon your March, and during your Residence at Cape Ann, as well as upon your March back to Camp, you will observe strict Discipline and on no Account suffer any under your Command to pillage or marraud. Upon your Arrival at Cape Ann, you will dispatch a Messenger to acquaint the General with the State you find Things in there: and you will frequently report to the General all extraordinary Occurrences that may happen. I am, etc.²

2. The draft is in the writing of Thomas Mifflin.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTAIN NICHOLSON BROUGHTON³³

1st. You being appointed a Captain in the Army of the United Colonies of North America, are hereby directed to take the Command of a Detachment of said Army and proceed on Board the *Schooner Hannah*, at Beverly lately fitted out & equipp'd with Arms, Ammunition and Provisions at the Continental Expence.

2nd. You are to proceed as Commander of *Sd. Schooner*,

33. Broughton was captain of the Continental armed schooner *Hannah*, one of the early privateers, sometimes known as Washington's Fleet, which inflicted considerable damage upon the British at the beginning of the war. Broughton's letters in the *Washington Papers* show that he signed his Christian name differently at various times; it appears as Nicholas, Nicholson, and Nicholasson.

immediately on a Cruize against such Vessels as may be found on the High Seas or elsewhere, bound inward and outward to or from Boston, in the Service of the ministerial Army, and to take and seize

all such Vessels, laden with Soldiers, Arms, Ammunition, or Provisions for or from sd. Army, or which you shall have good Reason to suspect are in such Service.

3rd. If you should be so successful as to take any of such Vessels, you are immediately to send them to the nearest and safest Port to this Camp, under a careful Prize-Master, directing him to notify me by Express immediately of such Capture, with all Particulars and there to wait my farther Direction.

4th. You are to be very particular and diligent in your Search after all Letters and other Papers tending to discover the Designs of the Enemy, or of any other Kind, and to forward all such to me as soon as possible.

5th. Whatever Prisoners you may take, you are to treat with Kindness and Humanity, as far as is consistent with your own Safety. Their private Stock of Money, and Apparell to be given them after being duly search'd, and when they arrive at any Port, you are to apply to the Committee, or to any Officer of the continental Army stationed at such

Port for a Guard to bring them up to Head Quarters.

6th. For your own Encouragement and that of the other Officers and Men, to Activity, and Courage in this Service, over and above your Pay in the Continental Army, you shall be entitled to one third Part of the Cargo of every Vessel by you taken and sent into Port, (military and naval Stores only excepted, which with Vessels and Apparell are reserved for publick Service) which 1st third Part is to be divided among the Officers and Men in the following Proportions. Captain 6 Shares, 1st Lieutt. 5 do, 2nd Lieutt. 4 do, Ship's Master 3 do, Steward 2 do, Mate 1½ do, Gunner 1½ do, Boatswain 1½ do, Gunners Mate and Serjt. 1½ do, Privates 1 Share each.

7th. You are particularly charged to avoid any Engagement with any armed Vessel of the Enemy, though you maybe equal in Strength, or may have some small Advantage; the Design of this Enterprize, being to intercept the Supplies of the Enemy, which will be defeated by your running into unnecessary

Engagements.

8th. As there may be other Vessels employed in the same Services with yourselves, you are to fix upon proper Signals, and your Stations being settled so as to take the greatest Range, avoid cruizing on the same Ground. If you should happen to take Prizes in Sight of each other; the Rules, which take Place among private Ships of War, are to be observed in the Distribution of the Prize-Money.

9th. In Case of retaking the Vessel of any Friend to the American Cause, I will recommend it to such Person to make a suitable Compensation to those who have done such a Service; but such Vessels are not to be deemed as coming within the Directions respecting other Vessels.

10th. You are to be extremely careful and frugal of your Ammunition, by no Means to waste any of it in Salutes, or for any Purpose, but what is absolutely necessary.³⁴

34. The draft, in the writing of Joseph Reed, was indorsed later by Richard Varick: "Captn B. sailed the 5th Sept."

To NATHANIEL TRACY

Head Quarters, September 2, 1775.

You are hereby authorized and empowered to take up for the Service of the sd. Colonies so many Vessels as shall be necessary for the transporting a Body of Troops to be detached from this Army on a secret Expedition: Freight of such Vessels to be paid in such a Manner and at such a Rate as is indorsed hereon: And in Case of Loss or Damage to such Vessels or any of them such Loss or Damage to be compensated by the Publick according to an Estimation to be made before the sd. Vessels proceed in the above Service.³⁵

35. In the writing of Joseph Reed. The vessels were to take Arnold's troops to the Kennebec River, whence he started on his march against Canada. Reed added a note to the draft that Colonel Orne, of Marblehead, Mass., and two other persons were to appraise the vessels before they proceeded.

To COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD

Camp at Cambridge, September 14, 1775.

Sir: You are intrusted with a Command of the utmost Consequence sequence to the Interest and Liberties of America.

Upon your Conduct and Courage and that of the Officers and Soldiers detached on this Expedition, not only the Success of the present Enterprize, and your own Honour, but the Safety and Welfare of the Whole Continent may depend. I charge you, therefore, and the Officers and Soldiers, under your

Command, as you value your own Safety and Honour and the Favour and Esteem of your Country, that you consider yourselves, as marching, not through an Enemy's Country; but that of our Friends and Brethren, for such the Inhabitants of Canada, and the Indian Nations have approved themselves in this unhappy Contest between Great Britain and America. That you check by every Motive of Duty and Fear of Punishment, every Attempt to plunder or insult any of the Inhabitants of Canada. Should any American Soldier be so base and infamous as to injure any Canadian or Indian, in his Person or Property, I do most earnestly enjoin you to bring him to such severe and exemplary Punishment as the Enormity of the Crime may require. Should it extend to Death itself it will not be disproportional to its Guilt at such a Time and in such a Cause: But I hope and trust, that the brave Men who have voluntarily engaged in this Expedition, will be

governed by far different Views. that Order, Discipline and Regularity of Behaviour will be as conspicuous, as their Courage and Valour. I also give it in Charge to you to avoid all Disrespect to or Contempt of the Religion of the Country and its Ceremonies. Prudence, Policy, and a true Christian Spirit, will lead us to look with Compassion upon their Errors without insulting them. While we are contending for our own Liberty, we should be very cautious of violating the Rights of Conscience in others, ever considering that God alone is the Judge of the Hearts of Men, and to him only in this Case, they are answerable. Upon the whole, Sir, I beg you to inculcate upon the Officers and Soldiers, the Necessity of preserving the strictest Order during their March through Canada; to represent to them the Shame, Disgrace and Ruin to themselves and Country, if they should by their Conduct, turn the Hearts of our Brethren in Canada against us. And on the other Hand, the Honours and Rewards which await them, if by their Prudence and good Behaviour, they conciliate the Affections of the Canadians and Indians, to the great Interests of America, and convert those favorable Dispositions they have shewn into a lasting Union and Affection. Thus wishing you and the Officers and Soldiers under your Command, all Honour, Safety

and Success, I remain Sir, etc.⁴⁹

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD

1st. You are immediately on their March from Cambridge to take the Command of the Detachment from the Continental Army again Quebec, and use all possible Expedition, as the Winter Season is now advancing and the Success of this Enterprize, (under God) depends wholly upon the Spirit with which it is pushed, and the favorable Disposition of the Canadian and Indians.

2nd. When you come to Newbury Port, you are to make all possible Inquiry, what Men of War or Cruizers there may be on the Coast, to which this Detachment may be exposed on their Voyage to Kennebeck River: and if you should find that their is Danger of your being intercepted, you are not to proceed by Water, but by Land, taking Care

49. The draft is in the writing of Joseph Reed.

on the one Hand, not to be diverted by light and vague Reports, and on the other, not to expose the Troops rashly to a Danger, which by many judicious Persons has been deemed very considerable.

3rd. You are by every Means in your Power, to endeavour to discover the real Sentiments of the Canadians towards our Cause, and particularly as to this Expedition, ever bearing in Mind, that if they are averse to it and will not co-operate, or at least willingly acquiesce, it must fail of Success. In this Case you are by no Means to prosecute the Attempt; the Expence of the Expedition, and the Disappointment are not to be put in Competition with the dangerous Consequences which may ensue, from irritating them against us, and detaching them from that Neutrality which they have adopted.

4th. In Order to cherish those favorable Sentiments to the American Cause that they have manifested, you are as soon as you arrive in their Country, to disperse a Number of the Addresses you will have with you, particularly in those Parts, where your Rout shall lay, and observe the strictest Discipline and good Order, by no Means suffering any Inhabitant to be abused, or in any Manner injured, either in his Person or Property, punishing with exemplary

Severity every Person who shall transgress, and making ample Compensation to the Party injured.

5th. You are to endeavour on the other Hand to conciliate the affections of those People and such Indians as you may meet with by every Means in your Power, convincing them that we come, at the Request of many of their Principal People, not as Robbers or to make War upon them; but as the Friends and Supporters of their Liberties, as well as ours: And to give Efficacy to these Sentiments, you must carefully inculcate upon the Officers and Soldiers under your Command that not only the Good of their Country and their Honour, but their Safety depends upon the Treatment of these People.

6th. Check every Idea, and crush in it's earliest stage every attempt to plunder even those who are known to be Enemies to our Cause. It will create dreadful Apprehensions in our Friends, and when

it is once begun, none can tell where it will stop. I, therefore again most expressly order, that it be discouraged and punished in every Instance without Distinction.

7th. Whatever King's Stores you shall be so fortunate as to possess yourself of, are to be secured for the Continental Use, agreeable to the Rules and Regulations of War published by the Honourable

Congress. The Officers and Men may be assured that any extraordinary services performed by them will be suitably rewarded.

8th. Spare neither Pains or Expence to gain all possible Intelligence on your March, to prevent Surprizes and Accidents of every Kind, and endeavour, if possible, to correspond with General Schuyler, so that you may act in Concert with him. This, I think, may be done by Means of the St. Francis Indians.

9th. In case of an Union with General Schuyler, or if he should be in Canada upon your Arrival there, you are by no Means to consider yourself as upon a seperate and independent Command; but are to put yourself under him and follow his Directions. Upon this Occasion, and all others, I recommend most earnestly to avoid all Contention about Rank. In such a Cause every Post is honourable in which a Man can serve his Country.

10th. If Lord Chatham's Son should be in Canada and in any Way fall in your Power, you are enjoined to treat him with all possible Deference and Respect. You cannot err in paying too much Honour to the Son of so illustrious a Character and so true a Friend to America.

Any other Prisoners who may fall into your Hands, you will treat with as much Humanity and kindness, as may be consistent with your own Safety and the publick Interest. Be very particular in restraining not only your own Troops, but the Indians from all Acts of Cruelty and Insult, which will disgrace the American Arms, and irritate our Fellow Subjects against us.

11th. You will be particularly careful, to pay the full Value for all Provisions or other Accommodations which the Canadians may provide for you on your March. By no Means press them or any of their Cattle into your Service; but amply compensate those who voluntarily assist you. For this Purpose you are provided with a Sum of Money in Specie, which you will use with as much Frugality and Oeconomy as your necessities and good Policy will admit, keeping as exact an account as possible of your Disbursements.

12th. You are by every Opportunity to inform me of your Progress, your Prospects and Intelligence, and upon any important Occurrence to dispatch an Express.

13th. As the Season is now far advanced, you are to make all possible Dispatch, but if unforeseen Difficulties should arise or if the Weather shou'd become so severe as to render it hazardous to proceed in your own Judgment and that of your principal Officers, (whom you are to consult) In that Case you are to return, giving me as early Notice as possible, that I may give you such Assistance as may be necessary.

14th. As the Contempt of the Religion of a Country by ridiculing any of its Ceremonies or affronting its Ministers or Votaries has ever been deeply resented, you are to be particularly careful to restrain every Officer and Soldier from such Imprudence and Folly and to punish every Instance of it. On the other Hand, as far as lays in your ower, you are to protect and support the free Exercise of the Religion of the Country and the undisturbed Enjoyment of the rights of Conscience in religious Matters, with your utmost Influence and Authority. Given under my Hand, at Head Quarters, Cambridge, this 14th Day of September one Thousand seven Hundred and seventy-five.⁵⁰

50. The draft of these specific instructions to Arnold is in the writing of Thomas Mifflin.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE WAGON MASTER GENERAL⁶⁸

[September 26, 1775.]

1st. The Army being in three Divisions; Roxbury, Cambridge and Prospect Hill, under the Major Generals Ward, Lee, and Putnam; you are to have a sufficient Number of Teams for the Service of each Division.

2nd When any Person applies to you for a Team, he must produce an Order from the Commander in Chief, one of the Major Generals for whose Division the Service is to be done, or the Commissary General; otherwise you are not obliged to pay any Regard to it.

3rd Once a Week, (on every Saturday) you are to make a Return to the Commander in Chief of the Number of Teams in Service, and what Work they have been employed in the preceding Week, taking special Care not to put the Public to needless Charge, by providing and keeping more Teams than are absolutely necessary.

4th As to the Manner in which the Teams are to be fed, it will be best they should find themselves, and be paid accordingly. The Carts or Waggon may be numbered, and the Number with the Words, *Continental Army* on a Board put on some Part of the Cart or Waggon most easily seen. I am, Sir, etc.

68. John Goddard was Wagon Master General of the Continental Army.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLONEL JOHN GLOVER AND STEPHEN MOYLAN

Camp at Cambridge, October 4, 1775.

His Excellency having resolved to equip two armed Vessels, has impowered you to negotiate this Business, in which the following Directions are to be observed.

1st. That the Vessels be approved Sailors and as well found as possible.

2nd. That you have an Appraisalment made of them, by indifferent People, to be returned to Head Quarters.

3rd. That you agree, at as reasonable a rate as you can, for the Hire of the Vessels, and if possible procure the Cannon and Swivels on Loan; and if not, purchase them at the cheapest Rate per Month.

4th. If you cannot equip them suitably at Salem or Marblehead, one of you to proceed to Newbury Port, where there are several Vessels and Sundry Cannon provided suitable for this Purpose.

5th. You are as soon as possible, to send down proper Directions for the making of the Cartridges, and providing Ammunition, and a List of what will be wanted.

6th. You are to nominate some suitable Person at Caper Ann, Marblehead and each other Place, where any Prizes may be sent, as an Agent, to take Care of

such Prizes, instructing him to give as early Information as possible of all Captures and the List of the Cargoes, as far as he can do it from Papers. These Persons when nominated by you, to receive Instructions from Head Quarters. You are also to settle with them the Terms and let them be Persons of approved good Character, and known Substance. All agreements &c to be put in writing.

7th. All Contracts entered into by you jointly when together, or separately, in Case one should go to Newbury, the General will ratify and confirm.

8th. As soon as either of the vessels are in such Forwardness as to be ready to sail in a few Days, you are to send Notice to Head Quarters, that the Officers and Men may march down. I am, Gentn. etc.,
Joseph Reed¹⁵

15. These were Washington's orders, though signed by Reed. They are here printed so that the additional instructions to Col. John Glover and Stephen Moylan of October 16, *q. v.*, may be clearly understood. The two captains were Nicholas Broughton and John Selman, and the vessels were called the *Lynch* and the *Franklin*.

To CAPTAIN NICHOLSON BROUGHTON

Head Quarters, October 16, 1775.⁴⁴

Sir: The Honble Continental Congress having received Intelligence, that two North Country Brigantines of no Force, sailed from England some Time ago for Quebec, laden with 6000 Stands of Arms, a large Quantity of Powder and other Stores; you are hereby directed to make all possible Dispatch for the River St. Lawrence, and there to take such a Station as will best enable you to intercept the above Vessels.

2nd. You are also to seize and take any other Transports laden with Men, Ammunition, Clothing, or other Stores for the Use of the Ministerial Army or Navy, in America and secure them in such Places as may be most safe and convenient.

44. Precisely the same instructions, with the necessary alteration in file third article, were given to Capt. John Selman this same date. These papers are in the *Washington Papers*.

3rd. The other armed Schooner named the Lynch and commanded by Captain Sellman, is to be under your general Command but you are to advise and concert with him the proper Stations and the proper Time to continue this Service.

4th. You are to endeavour, if possible, to discover whether the above Vessels have passed by. If they have, you are not to return; but keep the Station as long as the Season will admit. As there is a great Probability that Quebec will fall into our Hands in a very short Time, it may be expected that not only the above Ordnance Vessels; but others from Quebec and Montreal may come down and fall into our Hands.

5th. As there may be Men of War at Newfoundland, you are so to conduct as to prevent being discovered by them; or any Intelligence given of your Station.

6th. Whatever Vessels you may meet, bound in or out of the River St. Lawrence, which you have Reason to believe are in the Service of the ministerial Army or convoying any Stores to them of Provision, or of any other Nature, you are to endeavour to seize, though they should not be Transports regularly engaged by Government.

7th. For your Encouragement and that of the Officers and Men under your Command, you will receive one third Part of the Value of any Prizes you may

take as well military Stores as the Hulls of such Vessels, nothing being excepted but the wearing Apparel and private Stock of the Captains, other Officers and Passengers of such Prizes.

8th. Should you meet with any Vessel, the Property of the Inhabitants of Canada, not employed in any Respect in the Service of the ministerial army, you are to treat such Vessel with all Kindness and by no Means suffer them to be injured or molested. I am, Sir, etc.

To CAPTAIN NICHOLSON BROUGHTON

Head Quarters, October 16, 1775.⁴⁴

Sir: The Honble Continental Congress having received Intelligence, that two North Country Brigantines of no Force, sailed from England some Time ago for Quebec, laden with 6000 Stands of Arms, a large Quantity of Powder and other Stores; you are hereby directed to make all possible Dispatch for the River St. Lawrence, and there to take such a Station as will best enable you to intercept the above Vessels.

2nd. You are also to seize and take any other Transports laden with Men, Ammunition, Clothing, or other

44. Precisely the same instructions, with the necessary alteration in file third article, were given to Capt. John Selman this same date. These papers are in the *Washington Papers*.

Stores for the Use of the Ministerial Army or Navy, in America and secure them in such Places as may be most safe and convenient.

3rd. The other armed Schooner named the Lynch and commanded by Captain Sellman, is to be under your general Command but you are to advise and concert with him the proper Stations and the proper Time to continue this Service.

4th. You are to endeavour, if possible, to discover whether the above Vessels have passed by. If they have, you are not to return; but keep the Station as long as the Season will admit. As there is a great Probability that Quebec will fall into our Hands in a very short Time, it may be expected that not only the above Ordnance Vessels; but others from Quebec and Montreal may come down and fall into our Hands.

5th. As there may be Men of War at Newfoundland, you are so to conduct as to prevent being discovered by them; or any Intelligence given of your Station.

6th. Whatever Vessels you may meet, bound in or out of the River St. Lawrence, which you have Reason to believe are in the Service of the ministerial Army or conveying any Stores to them of Provision, or of any other Nature, you are to endeavour to seize, though they should not be Transports

regularly engaged by Government.

7th. For your Encouragement and that of the Officers and Men under your Command, you will receive one third Part of the Value of any Prizes you may take as well military Stores as the Hulls of such Vessels, nothing being excepted but the wearing Apparel and private Stock of the Captains, other Officers and Passengers of such Prizes.

8th. Should you meet with any Vessel, the Property of the Inhabitants of Canada, not employed in any Respect in the Service of the ministerial army, you are to treat such Vessel with all Kindness and by no Means suffer them to be injured or molested. I am, Sir, etc.

***INSTRUCTIONS TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN SULLIVAN**

Head Quarters, November 7, 1775.

You are to proceed immediately to Portsmouth in New Hampshire,⁸¹ and complete the Works already began, to secure that and the other Towns at the Entrance of Piscataway River, from any Attacks by Ships of War. For this Purpose, you are to fix Ships and Fire Rafts in such Places as you find most convenient to prevent the Enemy from passing up the River. As great Calamities

and Distress are brought upon our Sea Port Towns, through the malicious Endeavours and false Representations of many Persons, holding Commissions under the Crown, who, not content with bringing Destruction upon some of our principal Towns, are yet using every Art that Malice can devise to reduce

81. General Sullivan was already at Portsmouth.

others to the same unhappy State; in Hopes, by such diabolical and cruel Conduct to please an arbitrary and tyrannical Ministry, and to receive from them in Return, a Continuance of such Places and Pensions as they now hold at the Expence of the Blood and Treasure of this distressed Continent.

You are, therefore, immediately upon your arrival in that Province, to seize such Persons as hold Commissions under the Crown and are acting as open and avow'd Enemies to their Country, and hold them as Hostages for the Security of those Towns, which our ministerial Enemies threaten to invade. In Case any Attack should be made upon Portsmouth, or other Sea Ports in that Quarter, you are immediately to collect such Force as can be raised, to repel the Invasion; and at all Hazards prevent the Enemy from landing and taking Possession of any Posts in that Quarter. When you have compleated the Works at Portsmouth, and secured the Passage of the River there, you are to return without Delay to the Army, unless you find the Enemy are about to make an immediate Attack upon that or the neighbouring Towns; [the above is rather to be considerd as matters of advice than orders; as I do not conceive myself authorizd to Involve the Continent in any Expence for the defence of Portsmouth, or other place out of the Line of the great American defence; particular Colonies being called upon by the Congress to prepare for their own Internal Security. Given under my Hand etc.]⁸²

82. The words in brackets are in Washington's writing.

INSTRUCTIONS TO HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, Cambridge, November 16, 1775.

You are immediately to examine into the State of the Artillery of this Army, and take an account of the Cannon, Motors, Shells, Lead and Ammunition, that are wanting. When you have done that, you are to proceed in the most expeditious Manner to New York; there apply to the President of the provisional Congress, and learn of him whether Colonel Reed did any Thing, or left any Orders respecting these Articles, and get him to procure such of them as can possibly be had there. The

President, if he can, will have them immediately sent hither: If he cannot you must put them in a proper Channel for being transported to this Camp with Dispatch, before you leave New York. After you have procured as many of these Necessaries as you can there, you must go to Major General Schuyler, and get the Remainder from Ticonderoga, Crown Point, or St John's. If it should be necessary, from Quebec; if in our Hands. The Want of them is so great, that no Trouble or Expence must be spared to obtain them. I have wrote to General Schuyler, he will give every necessary assistance that they may be had and forwarded to this Place, with the utmost Dispatch. I have given you a Warrant to the Pay-Master General of the Continental Army, for a Thousand Dollars to defray the Expence attending your Journey, and procuring these Articles; an Account of which you are to keep and

render upon your Return.⁵ Endeavour to procure what Flints you can.

[MS.H.S.]

5. Knox's journal of his journey to the north is printed in the *New England Histl. & Genealg. Register* (July, 1876). His transportation of cannon from Ticonderoga and Crown Point, N.Y., through the woods to Cambridge, Mass., was an astonishing feat.

To AARON WILLARD

November 24, 1775.

The Honble Continental Congress having lately passed a Resolve, contained in the following Words, vizt.: "That two Persons be sent at the Expence of these Colonies to Nova Scotia to inquire into the State of that Colony the Disposition of the Inhabitants towards the American Cause, and the Condition of the Fortifications, Dock-Yards, the Quantity of Artillery and warlike Stores and the number of Soldiers, Sailors, and Ships of War there

and transmit the earliest Intelligence to General Washington." I do hereby constitute and appoint you the said Aaron Willard Esqr. to be one of the Persons to undertake this Business, and as the Season is late, and this a Work of great Importance, I entreat and request that you will use the utmost Dispatch, Attention and Fidelity in the Execution of it. The necessity of acting with a proper Degree of Caution and Secrecy, is too apparent to need Recommendation. You will keep an Account of your Expences, and upon your Return will be rewarded in a suitable Manner, for the Fatigue of

your Journey and the Services you render your Country, by conducting and discharging this Business with Expedition and Fidelity¹⁷ Given under my Hand, etc.

17. The same instructions were sent to Moses Child, who went with Willard. They traveled overland to Nova Scotia, where they found two proclamations had been issued by the governor of that Province against spies. Willard and Child returned to Cambridge, Mass., and reported to Washington Feb. 14, 1776. Their report that the inhabitants of Nova Scotia were in favor of and would help America had no foundation in fact. It is in the *Washington Papers*. Nova Scotia and Halifax continued to be an object of attention for American spies throughout the war, but nothing was ever accomplished.

***INSTRUCTIONS TO MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE⁸**

Head Quarters at Cambridge, January 8, 1776.

Having undoubted Intelligence of the

8. General Lee had just returned from Newport, R. I., and had written to the Commander in Chief (January 5): "New York must be secured, but it will never, I am afraid, be secured by direct order of the Congress, for obvious reasons. They find themselves awkwardly situated on this head. You must step in to their relief. I am sensible that no men can be spared from the lines, in our present circumstances; but I would propose that you should detach me into Connecticut and lend your name for collecting a body of Volunteers. I am assured that I shall find no difficulty in assembling a sufficient number for the purposes wanted. This body, in conjunction (if there should appear occasion to summon them) with the Jersey Regiment, under the Command of Lord Stirling now at Elizabeth Town, will effect the security of New York, and the expulsion or suppression of that dangerous banditti of Tories, who have appeared on Long Island with the professed intention of acting against the authority of the Congress. Not to crush these Serpents, before their rattles are grown, would be ruinous....this manœuvre I not only think prudent and right, but absolutely necessary to our salvation; and if it meets, as I ardently hope it will, with your approbation, the sooner it is enter'd upon the better; indeed, the delay of a single day may be fatal." Lee's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

fitting out of a Fleet at Boston, and of the Imbarkation of Troops from thence, which from the Season of the year and other Circumstances, must be destined for a Southern Expedition. And having such Information as I can rely on, that the Inhabitants, (or great part of them) on Long Island in the Colony

of New York, are not only Inemical to the Rights and Liberties of America; but by their Conduct and Publick professions, have discoverd a disposition to aid and assist in the reduction of that Colony to Ministerial Tyranny: And as it is a matter of the utmost Importance to prevent the Enemy from taking Possession of the City of New York and the North River, as they will thereby Command the Country, and the communication with Canada; it is of too much consequence (since we find by his Majesty's Speech to Parliament, that, disregarding the Petition from the United Voice of America, nothing less than the total Subversion of her Rights, will satisfie him) to hazard such a Post at so alarming a crisis

You will, therefore, with such Volunteers as are willing to join you, and can be expeditiously raised, repair to the City of New York, and calling upon the Commanding Officer of the Forces of New Jersey for such Assistance as he can afford, and you shall require, you are to put that City into the best Posture of Defence which the Season and Circumstances will admit of. Disarming all such

persons upon long Island and elsewhere (and if necessary otherwise securing them), whose conduct, and declarations have renderd them justly suspected of Designs unfriendly to the Views of Congress.

You are also to enquire into the State and Condition of the Fortifications up the North River, and, as far as shall be consistent with the Orders of Congress, or not repugnant to them, to have the Works guarded against Surprizes from a body of Men which might be transported by Water near the place, and then March'd in upon the back of them.

You will also Indeavour to have the Medicines, Shirts, and Blankets (now at New York) &c belonging to the Ministerial Troops secured, and forwarded to this Army. Captn. Sears⁹ can give you particular Information concerning them.

In all other Matters relative to the execution of the general Plan you are going upon, your own judgment (as it is impossible with propriety to give particular direction) and the advice of those whom you have reasons to believe are hearty in the cause, must direct; keeping always in view the declar'd Intention's of Congress.

I am perswaded, I need not recommend dispatch in the Prosecution of this business; the Importance alone is a sufficient excitement. I would advise a dismissal of the Volunteers (whose necessary Expences will be borne) so soon as the Service will admit of it; and, that you

9. Possibly Thomas Sears, who was a lieutenant colonel of New York Militia in 1778–79.

endeavour as much as possible, at all times, to be in readiness to join the Army if the exigency of our Affairs here, should call for it.

INSTRUCTIONS TO WILLIAM MARONY

Head Quarters, January 12, 1776.

All Persons guilty of capital Crimes, and Crimes not triable by a regimental Court Martial are to be sent to the Provost.

The Provost is not to receive any Prisoner without a Crime specified in Writing, and signed by the Person committing him. No Prisoner is to be suffered to be absent from his Confinement untill released by proper Authority.

The Provost Marshal is to provide a suitable Person, when necessary, to execute the Sentences of General Courts Martial approved of and directed to be enforced by the Commander in Chief.

When any Men are sent to the Provost, the Provost Marshal is to send a Report of them immediately to the Regiment they belong to; and no Man is to be received by the Provost unless his Crime is sent with him.

The Provost is to make a Return every Morning by ten O'Clock, to the Adjutant General, of the Number of Prisoners under Guard, specifying the Regiments they belong to, their Crimes, by whom and how long confined.

The Provost is to take due Care, that all Orders from the Judge Advocate respecting the Trials of Prisoners be punctually executed, and is to post proper Centries from his Guard, at such Times and in such Places as a General Court Martial may sit.

The Provost is frequently to take a Party from his Guard and patrol the Avenues and Environs of the Camp, is to take up and

confine all disorderly and suspicious Persons, to suppress Riots and Disturbances and to inform the Quarter Master General of all Persons who keep unwarranted and destructive Dram Shops, and all other pernicious and Camp Nusances.

The Provost is to receive and obey all such Orders and Instructions as may at any Time be given him by his Excellency the Commander in Chief, the Adjutant General, the Quarter Master General, and the Judge Advocate of the Army of the United Colonies.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTAIN CHARLES DYAR

Head Quarters Cambridge, January 20, 1776.

Sir: You being appointed Captain and Commander of the armed schooner *Harrison* in the Service of the United Colonies are to pay all Attention and Obedience to the following Instructions.

1st. You are to proceed immediately on a Cruize, against such Vessels as may be found on the high Seas or elsewhere, bound inwards or outwards to or from Boston, in the Service of the ministerial Army, and to take and seize all such Vessels, laden with Soldiers, Arms, Ammunition, or Provisions, going to or from said Town of Boston, or which you shall have good Reason to suspect, are employed for the Purpose of aiding, or assisting the ministerial Troops or Navy.

2nd. If you should be so successful as to take any of said Vessels, you are immediately to send them to the nearest and safest Port, to this Camp, under a careful Prize-Master, directing him to deliver said Prize unto the Agent by me appointed for the Port into which a Prize is carried (if any there). If none should be in that Port, Notice is to be given to the nearest Agent thereto; at same Time an Account of such Capture to be transmitted to Head Quarters, with all Particulars thereto belonging, by Express.

3rd. You are to be very particular and diligent in your Search after all Letters or other Papers tending to discover the Designs of the Enemy, or of any other kind, and to forward all such to me as soon as possible.

4th. Whatever Prisoners you take, must be treated with Kindness and Humanity. Their private Stock of Money and Apparel to be given them, after being strictly searched, and when they arrive at any Port, they are to be delivered up to the Agent, if any there; if not, to the Committee of Safety of such Port.

5th. For your Encouragement, and that of the other Officers and Men to Diligence and Activity, over and above their Pay, which will be the same as in the Army of the United Colonies; you shall be entitled to one third Part of every Vessel and Cargo, (after Condemnation in the Court of Admiralty) which shall be by you taken and sent into Port. If she is an arm'd Vessel that resists, as an Inducement for you, your Officers and Men to act courageously, one half of Vessel and Cargo will be allotted to you, which Parts are to be divided in the following Proportion, vizt: Shares: Captain, 6;

1st. Lieutt., 5; 2nd. Lieutt., 4; Ships Master, 3; Steward, 2; Mate, 1½; Gunner, 1½; Gunners Mate, 1½; Privates, 1 each.

6th. As Captain Manley is appointed Commodore of the four Schooners now fitted out, he will fix upon proper Signals by which you may know each other, and you are to obey him

as such in all Cases. If it should so happen that a Prize is taken in sight of other Vessels, fitted out at the continental Expense or at the Charge of Individuals, the Rules which take Place among private Ships of War, to be observed in the Distribution of the Prize Money.

7th. You are to be extremely careful and frugal of your Ammunition and other Stores; by no Means to waste any of it in Salutes, or for any Purpose but what is absolutely necessary.

8th. You, your Officers and Men are, from the Date hereof, to consider yourselves as engaged in the Service of the United Colonies, and in every Respect subject to the Rules and Regulations formed by the Congress, for the Government of the Army raised for the Defence of American Liberty; or as near as possible, consistent with the Difference of the Land and Sea Service. A Book of the Rules and Articles, you will receive herewith, at the End, of which you, your Officers, and Men must subscribe your Names.

9th. As it is very apparent, that the ill Success which attended the major Part of the armed Vessels in former Cruizes, was owing to the Want of Industry, and the Inactivity of the Officers who commanded; you will, therefore, take Notice, that a Fondness to be on Shore, Indolence, and Inactivity, will meet with their just Deserts. For, if it appears, that the Captain or any of the Officers, do not exert themselves, and do all that they possibly can for their own and the publick Good, they shall be dismissed the Service, and rendered incapable of serving

their Country in any honourable Station hereafter in the Army or Navy.³⁶

36. See Instructions to Capt. Nicholson Broughton, Oct. 16, 1775, *ante*.

***To COLONEL TIMOTHY BEDEL**

Cambridge, February 1, 1776.

Sir: The Continental Congress having called upon the Government of New Hampshire to raise a Regiment for the Service of the United Colonies, which they have accordingly complied with and

appointed you to the Command of; I have to desire that you will use the utmost diligence and dispatch possible, to raise the said Regiment, and march it into Canada by the way of No. 4, and Onion River, on which Communication a supply of Provisions will be laid, by Order of Major General Schuyler.

This Regiment is to be rais'd upon the Continental Establishment, and agreeable to the terms and requisition of the Congress, as transmitted to New Hampshire. As the Necessity of reinforcing our Troops Posted before, and forming the Blockade of Quebec, is too apparent to need description, I would have you order each Company to March as fast as they are rais'd, the whole putting themselves under the Command of the Genl. or Commanding Officer in Canada, as fast as they arrive there.

Such Necessaries as are indispensably necessary for the use of your Regiment will, I expect, be provided for you by your Colony, in the doing of which, and on your March, I recommend the utmost Oeconomy, that can be used consistent with dispatch.

You will take under your care, Jean Baptist, together with the other Indians (now at this place) of the Caghnawaga Tribe, and conduct them in the safest, and most agreeable manner to themselves, into Canada. You will receive a Warrant upon the Pay master, for the Sum of £100 Lawful with which you are to bear their Expences, rendering an Acct. of the just expenditure thereof, for their use to the Commissary of the Northern department when you get there; who will be advertized of this Matter and directed to settle with you.

These, Sir, are my Instructions, to which I doubt not,

you will pay a proper Attention. I must again recommend your making all possible dispatch; and that you may have a Share in the Glory of expelling the Instruments of ministerial Tyranny, from that fair Province, is the sincere Wish, of, Sir, etc.⁷³

73. The last paragraph is in the handwriting of Stephen Moylan.

To CAPTAIN WILLIAM BURKE

Cambridge, February 1, 1776.

By Virtue of the Powers and Authorities to me given by the honourable Continental Congress,

>

I do hereby constitute and appoint you Captain and Commander of the Schooner Warren, now lying at Beverly Port, in the service of the United Colonies of North America; to have, hold, exercise, and enjoy the said Office of Captain and Commander of the said Vessel, and to perform and execute all Matters and Things which to your said Office do, or may of Right belong, or appertain, untill further Order shall be given herein by the honourable Continental Congress, myself, or any future Commander in Chief of said Army, Willing and commanding all Officers, Soldiers, and Persons whatsoever, any way concerned, to be obedient and assisting to you in the due execution of this Commission.

Given under my hand and seal etc.⁷⁴

74. Instructions issued were the same as those to Capt. Charles Dyar, Jan. 20, 1776, *q. v.*

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLONEL ELISHA PORTER

Cambridge, February 10, 1776.

Sir: The Continental Congress having confirmed my Application to this Government, to raise a Regiment for the service of the United Colonies, which is now complied with and you are appointed to the Command thereof; I have to desire, that you will use the utmost Diligence and Dispatch possible, to compleat the said Regiment, and march it into Canada, by the shortest and best Way; that, from your own Knowledge of the Country and from the best Information you can get, you think will be the most expeditious.

I have to acquaint you, that if you take your Rout by No. 4 and Onion River, there will be a Supply of Provisions ready for you, laid in by Order of General Schuyler.

As this Regiment is to be upon the continental Establishment, agreeable to the Terms and Requisition of Congress, transmitted to the legislative Power of this Province, and the Necessity of reinforcing our Troops posted and forming the Blockade of Quebec is too apparent, to need dwelling on, I would have you order each Company to march as fast as they are raised; the whole putting themselves under the Command of the General, or Commanding Officer in Canada, as fast as they arrive there.

Such Necessaries as you will think really proper, and that you cannot do without, will be provided for you, by the Commissary General, and Quarter Master General, and I shall depend upon you that the strictest Oeconomy is used, consistent with the Dispatch necessary upon this Occasion.

These, Sir, are my Instructions to you, and from the Character you bear, I doubt not, you will pay due Attention to them.

I must again recommend your making all possible Dispatch, and that you may share in the Glory of expelling the Instruments of ministerial Tyranny, from that fair Province, is the sincere Wish of, Sir,
etc.⁹⁰

90. In the writing of George Lewis.

INSTRUCTIONS AND ORDERS TO BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Cambridge, March 19, 1776.

As you are forthwith to take upon you the Command of the Brigade, now upon their March to Norwich in Connecticut, consisting of the 5th, 16th, 19th, 24 and 25th Regiments, you will without Delay proceed to Norwich, where you will confer with the Persons appointed to provide Vessels

for the Transportation of the Troops to New York. Dispatch and secrecy are necessary in embarking and sailing with this Brigade from thence to the Place of their Destination in doing which, you must be intirely governed by the Information you will receive at Norwich, and such Intelligence of the Motions of the Enemy's Ships of War, and armed Vessels, as you will be able to procure at Norwich, and from the Mouth of that River. As you have your own Coast aboard, there will be no Risque in transporting the Troops by Water unless the Enemy's Ships are in Possession of the Mouth of the River previous to your Arrival there. In that Case, you will disembark the Troops, and march the Brigade by Land to New York.

Perceiving that several of the Baggage Carts carried from hence, Tables, and other Articles of Household Furniture you are strictly enjoined to ease the Carriages of all such Trumpery, and positively not to suffer the March of the Brigade to be retarded, by any unnecessary Luggage being put into the Baggage Carts.

By the Order of March, delivered to the commanding Officers of the several Divisions of the Brigade, now upon their March to Norwich, it is forcibly recommended to them to exert their utmost

Diligence, and authority, to prevent all pillaging, and marauding; and every Species of Abuse or ill Treatment of the Inhabitants of the Country. This Order you will continue to enforce, and command to be strictly observed.

Upon your Arrival with the Brigade at New York, you will wait upon the commanding General there, and receive and obey such Orders and Instructions, as he shall think necessary to give but you are not upon any Account to go before your Brigade into that City, nor be at any Time absent from them more than ten Miles, taking particular Care to acquaint the Colonels commanding the Divisions, where you lay of Nights, that they may know where to send upon any Emergency for your Orders and Directions.

If, when you arrive at New York, there is no General of superior Rank, nor no senior Officer to yourself, you will take the Command of the Army there, and with all possible Diligence proceed in executing Major General Lee's Plan for fortifying that Post, and the entrench'd Camp proposed.⁴⁸

48. The draft is in the writing of Horatio Gates.

ORDERS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO COLONEL THOMAS MIFFLIN⁶⁶

Cambridge, March 24, 1776.

As the motions of the Enemy, and the Operations of the ensuing Campaign, renders it indispensibly necessary that a very large Body of Troops should be immediately assembled at or

66. Mifflin was Quartermaster General of the Continental Army.

near New York. You will immediately proceed to Norwich in Connecticut, where you will in Concert with the Brigadiers General Heath and Sullivan, regulate the Embarkation of the Brigades under their Command, and settle all such Matters with the Commissary General of Provisions, and Contractors for the Transports as may be further necessary for expediting the March of the Rest of the Army, with the Stores, Artillery, Camp Equipage &c.

This being done, you will proceed without Delay to New York where your first Care will be to provide Barracks for the Troops Firing, Forage, Quarters for the General Officers, Fix upon a proper House or Houses for a General Hospital, Stabling for the continental draught Horses, &c. &c.

Intrenching Tools must also be immediately provided, with a sufficient Quantity of Joist and Plank for Platforms and Timber for Gun Carriages; in short, every necessary Article for the publick Service, and which, your Experience the last Campaign convinces you, will be wanted for that now approaching.

The Variety of the Business of your Department renders it next to impossible to point out particularly every Duty of your Office. Therefore a Latitude is given you in these Orders, and Instructions; which, together with the Directions and advice of the commanding General at New York, must be the Rule for the future Regulation of your Conduct; and I shall at present only recommend, that the same Integrity, Zeal, Diligence, and Activity, which has hitherto animated your

past Services, May govern that which is to come.⁶⁷

67. The draft of this letter is in the writing of Horatio Gates.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM THOMPSON

Head Quarters, Cambridge, March 27, 1776.

Sir: I take this earliest Opportunity to acquaint you that the Men of War and Transports with the ministerial Troops sail'd this Afternoon from Nantasket Harbour. There is only a Man of War and two or three other arm'd Vessels now remaining there. In Consequence of this Movement I have ordered a Brigade to march To-Morrow Morning for New York, and shall follow with the Remainder of the Army as soon as I can receive certain Information of the Fleet being clear off the Coast, and that we are in no further Danger of their returning to attack us at a Disadvantage.

I shall leave a few Regiments at Boston, to protect the continental Stores, and to assist in fortifying the Town and Harbour agreeable to the Directions that may be given by the General Assembly of this Colony. I have the Honor etc.⁷³

73. The same letter was sent to Lord Stirling and Governors Cooke and Trumbull.

ORDERS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM

Head Quarters, Cambridge, March 29, 1776.

As there are the best Reasons to believe that the

Enemy's Fleet and Army, which left Nantasket Road last Wednesday Evening, are bound to New York, to endeavour to possess that important Post, and if possible secure the Communication by Hudson's River to Canada. It must be our Care to prevent them from accomplishing their Designs. To that End, I have detached B. Genl. Heath with the whole Body of Rifle Men, and five Battalions of the Contl. Army by the Way of Norwich in Connecticut to New York. These, by an Express arrived yesterday from Genl. Heath, I have Reason to believe are in New York. Six more Battalions under General Sullivan march this Morning by the same Rout, and will, I hope, arrive there in eight or ten Days at farthest. The Rest of the Army will immediately follow in Divisions, leaving only a convenient Space between each Division, to prevent Confusion, and Want of Accommodation upon their March. You will no Doubt make the best Dispatch in getting to New York. Upon your Arrival there, you will assume the Command, and immediately proceed in continuing to execute the Plan proposed by M. Genl. Lee, for fortifying that City, and securing the Passes of the E. and N. Rivers. If, upon Consultation with the Brig'rs General and Engineers, any Alteration in that Plan is thought necessary, you are at Liberty to make it, cautiously avoiding to break too much upon his main Design, unless where it may be apparently necessary so to do, and that by the general Voice and Opinion of the Gentlemen above mentioned.

You will meet the Qt. Mr. General, Colo. Mifflin, and Commissary Genl. at New York. As they are both Men of excellent Talents in their different Departments, you will do

well to give them all the Authority and Assistance they require, and should a Council of War be necessary, it is my Direction they assist at it.

Your long Service and Experience will, better than any particular Directions at this Distance, point out to you the Works most proper to be first raised, and your Perseverance, Activity and Zeal will lead you, without my recommending it, to exert every Nerve to disappoint the Enemy's Designs.

Devoutly praying that the Power which has hitherto sustained the American Arms, may continue to bless them, with his divine Protection, I bid you Farewell.⁷⁹

79. The draft is in the writing of Horatio Gates.

ORDERS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO COLONEL HENRY KNOX

Cambridge, April 3, 1776.

It being of the utmost Importance to the public Service that the main Body of the Regiment of Artillery, together with the Field Cannon, Ammunition, Stores &c. should as speedily as possible be assembled at New York; I have thought proper to give you the following Orders and Instructions.

The Legislature of this Colony, having determined to assemble three Hundred Teams upon the Common in Cambridge between this Day and Saturday next, you will order the Commissary of Ordinance Stores, with the Conductors of Artillery, to be properly assisted in loading all the Amunition and Ordnance Stores into the Teams allotted for the Service of the Artillery.

You will send a Conductor with every Brigade of thirty Teams, to Norwich in Connecticut, whom you will order to receive and obey such Directions as the Commanding Officer at Norwich shall think proper to give.

In loading the Teams at Cambridge, you will take particular Care, to direct the Stores and Ammunition that will be first in Demand at the general Rendezvous, to be first sent forward; such as, the fixed Ammunition the Powder, Musquet Ball, Buck Shot, laboratory Stores, empty Paper Cannon Cartridges, Flints, Fuzes &c. &c. The heavy Stores, Shot, and Shells, not so immediately in Request may be sent the last, according as upon the best Information you shall see proper to give Directions.

The covered Waggons taken from the Enemy should carry all the Powder that is to go from hence, and the

Tumbrells, the fixed Ammunition. With these, It is my Orders you send Mr. Commissary Cheever, in whose Care, and Guidance it is proper to place your Confidence, for their Security, and Preservation.

All the remaining Field Artillery, and Brass Mortars should march with the two remaining Companies to Norwich, where they will find my Orders for their further Proceedings.

As soon as the whole of the Artillery, Ammunition, Stores, &c. directed by the Instructions, to be sent forward, are upon the March, you will yourself proceed to Norwich in Connecticut, and having seen every Thing before you from thence, you are then with all Dispatch to proceed to New York. Lieut.

Colonel Burbeck⁹⁸ should, without any Delay, go the directest Road thither and as soon as Lieut. Colo. Mason is able to travel, he must follow. Your Qr. Master should march with the two Companies to-Morrow and your Adjutant you do well to keep with yourself, to carry such Orders as you shall at any Time think necessary to give.

From the great Variety of the Stores and Duties in your Department, there is no such Thing as giving all and every minute Direction necessary to be given upon this Occasion. Trusting in your Zeal, Diligence, and Ability, I remain confident of every Exertion, in your Power, for the public Service.

98. Lieut. Col. William Burbeck (or Burbank).

ORDERS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO DOCTOR JOHN MORGAN⁹⁹

Cambridge, Head Quarters, April 3, 1776.

As the grand continental Army immediately upon the Command of his Excellency General Washington will, as soon as it is practicable, be assembled at New York; you are with all convenient Speed, to remove the General Hospital to that City.

As the sick in the different Houses cannot be removed, but must be attended, until they are able to march, you will leave such Surgeons, Surgeon's Mates, Apothecary and Attendants under the Direction of as are necessary for the Care of the sick now in the General Hospital.

The Medicines, Stores, Bedding, &c. not immediately wanted in the General Hospital, should be loaded in Carts, that will be provided next Saturday by the Assist. Qr. Mr. General, and sent under the Care of a proper Officer, or Officers of the Hospital to Norwich in Connecticut. Upon their arrival there, they will find his Excellency's Orders how and in what Manner to proceed from thence, whether by Land or by Water.

The Medicines order'd, upon his Excellency's Application by the Honourable the General Court of this Province, to be

99. Doctor Morgan had been a surgeon in the British Army. He was appointed director general and chief physician of the Continental Hospital in October, 1775. His British service and professional jealousy brought him into conflict with Dr. William Shippen, jr., of Pennsylvania, and Morgan was dismissed in January, 1777, to be succeeded by Shippen in April of that year. Morgan's management of the hospital was investigated and his conduct vindicated by Congress June 12, 1779.

taken out of the Town of Boston, should be sent with the first of the Hospital Stores that go to Norwich, a careful Person having Orders to take Charge of the same.

The fixing and compleating the regimt. Medicine Chests, according to your Plan lately proposed, had better be deferr'd until your Arrival at New York, when that may be set about under your Inspection.

As the removing the General Hospital must be attended with such a Variety of Duty, and Attention, I must refrain from giving more particular Directions, leaving a Latitude to your Experience and Knowledge in your Profession, to govern and direct all your Motions.

Before you leave Cambridge it will be necessary to see a proper regimental Medicine Chest provided and delivered, to each of the Surgeons of the four Regiments left in the Garrison there, under the immediate Command of Major General Ward; also a Chest for Colonel Glover's Regiment, on Command at Beverley.

Reposing intire Confidence in your Care, Diligence, and Zeal for the Service, I remain satisfied of your Best Exertions, for the public Benefit.¹

1. The draft is in the writing of Thomas Mifflin.

ORDERS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO JOHN PARKE²

Head Quarters, Cambridge, April 3, 1776.

It being found necessary for the public Service that Qt. Master General, Colonel Thomas Mifflin should be dispatched to New York, and the Command in his Department devolving on you, be it your Care to see that the Clerks, Commissary Waggon Masters, Armourers, Artificers, and the Servants of the Public of every Denomination within your Inspection, are diligent in executing your Commands, and forwarding the public Service. As a Number of Waggons will this Day be sent by the Legislature of this Province, for the Purpose of transporting Stores &c. to Norwich, those intended for the Qr. Master General, you will direct to be loaded with the Articles first in Request upon the Army's assembling at their general Rendezvous: such as, Camp Equipage, intrenching Tools, cooking Utensils &c., with all the Articles now in Store belonging to the various Branches in the Qr. Mr. Genl. Department. A Waggon Master and some of the Clerks, must accompany these Teams to Norwich, and see that every Thing sent from hence, is faithfully delivered there.

As some Teamsters have lately drop'd their Lading upon the Road at Waltham, you will order Waggon Master Goddard to see it sent forward immediately, and be very strict for the future, that every Teamster is made answerable for the Load he receives; by your ordering a

2. Col. John Parke, Assistant Quartermaster General of the Continental Army.

Clerk to enter in a Book, the Teamster's Name, Place of Abode, & Bill of Lading. A Copy of the Bill of Lading must also be given to the Teamster, upon the Back of which the Receiver of his Load at Norwich should be directed to write the Certificate for the Payment; and unless a Teamster can produce such Certificate of Delivery, he is not to receive any Money for his Services.

When all the Stores in your Department directed to be carried from hence to New York, are sent forward & the necessary Directions given to the Person who remains as Assistant Qt. Mr. General to the Troops in this District, you will then without Delay, proceed to New York, by the Way of Norwich in Connecticut. Upon your Arrival at Norwich you will see that all the Stores are sent before you from thence, and upon your being certain that it is effected, you cannot get too soon to New York, where you will report your whole Proceedings to Colonel Mifflin, produce and settle your Accounts with him.

Depending much upon your Diligence, Activity and Fidelity, I rest satisfied that no Part of the public Service committed to your Care, and Guidance will be in the least neglected.³

3. The draft is in the writing of Thomas Mifflin.

To COLONEL RICHARD GRIDLEY

New York, April 28, 1776.

Sir: It gives much Concern to hear from every one that comes from Boston, that those Works that were laid out for it's Defence, are in little more Forwardness, than they were when I left that Town. Who am I to blame for this shameful Neglect, but you, sir, who was to have them executed? It is not an agreeable Task to be under the Necessity of putting any Gentn. in Mind of his Duty; but it is what I owe to the Public. I expect and desire, Sir, that you will exert yourself in compleating the Works with all possible Dispatch, and do not lay me under the disagreeable Necessity of writing to you again upon this subject. I am, etc.

3

To MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD

New York, April 29, 1776.

Sir: It is with great Concern I learn from every Hand that your Works for the Defence of Boston, and the Harbour go on exceeding slow. I must entreat you, therefore to push Col. Gridley on to a diligent and faithful Discharge of his Duty in this particular.

We cannot possibly tell where the Enemy will pitch their Tents next. If Boston is left open and unguarded, it may be a Temptation to go there; but at any Rate, no Time should be lost in putting the Town in the best Posture of Defence the Nature of the Case will admit of.

I shall be glad in your next to receive a particular Account of what has been done towards fortifying the Harbour.

Four Regiments, to wit, Poor's, Patterson's, Greateon's and Bond's are already gone off for Canada. Reed's and Starke's will embark this Day for Albany on their Rout to the same Place, and four others will follow in a Day or two. I am, sir, &c.

3

***To MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM**

Head Quarters, City of New York, May 21, 1776.

Sir: The Congress having been pleased to signify a desire that I should repair to Philadelphia, in order to advise and consult with them on the present posture of affairs, and as I am on the point of setting out accordingly; I have to desire that you will cause the different Works now in agitation to be carried on with the utmost expedition,⁷⁸

78. Putnam, as senior major general, was left in command at New York.

3

to this end I have wrote to the Provincial Congress (of this Colony) for Tools and have hopes of obtaining them. Apply therefore accordingly, takg an exact acct. of what you receive.

The Works upon Long Island should be compleated as expeditiously as possible, so should those in and about this Town, and upon Governors Island. If New Works can be carried on without detriment to the old, (for want of Tools) I would have that intended at Powles hook,⁷⁹ set abt. immediately as I conceive it to be of Importance, in like manner would I have that at the Narrows begun, provided

Colo. Knox, after his arrangement of the Artillery should find that there are any fit pieces of Cannon to be spared for it: otherwise, as I have no longer any dependance upon Cannon from Admiral Hopkins, it wd. be useless.

The Barriers of those Streets leading from the Water are not to be meddled with; and where they have been pull'd down are to be repaired, and [erected] nearer the Water if more advantageous.

As it does not appear to me improbable that the Enemy may attempt to run past our Batteries in, and about the Town, and Land between them and the woody grounds above Mr. Scot's, I would have you employ as many Men as you can in throwing up Fleches at proper places, and distances within that space in order to give opposition in Landing but if there are not Tools enough to carry on the other (more essential) Works and these at the same Instant you are not to neglect the first

79. Powles Hook, now Jersey City, N.J. The spelling used by the British and all who followed their engineer maps is Paulus Hook. Washington and other Americans usually spell it Powles; the British, having only the sound of the name, spelled it phonetically. William H. Richardson, historian of the Pavonia Tercentenary Celebration, 1930, has definitely settled the point.

3

but esteem these as secondary considerations only.

Delay not a Moment's time to have the Signals fixed for the purpose of communicating an alarm upon the first appearance of the Enemy, let them be placed in such a Manner, and at such distances, as to be easily discerned; day, or Night. If this was continued upon the long Island Shore for some distance, good consequences might result from it; as nothing can be attended with more signal advantages than having timely notice of the Enemy's approach whilst nothing can add more to the disgrace of an Officer than to be surprizd; for this reason I have to beg that the same vigilance and precaution may be used as if the Enemy were actually within sight; as a brisk Wind, and flowing tide will soon produce them when they are once on the coast, the Officers and Men therefore shd. be constantly at their Qrs. the Guards alert and every thing in Readiness for immediate action.

As I have great reason to fear that the Fortifications in the High lands are in a bad situation, and the Garrisons on Acct. of Arms worse; I would have you send Brigadier Lord Stirling with Colo. Putnam (and Colo. Knox if he can be spared) up there, to see report and direct such alterations, as shall be judg'd necessary for putting them into a fit, and proper posture of defence.

Open any Letters which may come directed to me upon Public Service whilst I am absent; and

3

if any very Interesting advices should be contained therein, either from the Eastward, or Northward, forward them on to Philadelphia after regulating your conduct thereby.

I must again beg that your particular Attention may be turned to our Powder Magazines to see that that valuable Article is properly placed and Secured. I also beg that no time or Means be neglected to make as many Musket Cartridges as possible.

***To MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM**

Head Quarters, City of New York, May 21, 1776.

Sir: I have reason to believe that the Provincial Congress of this Colony have in Contemplation a Scheme for Seizing the principal Tories, and disaffected Person's [in the most obnoxious parts of the Government] on Long Island, in this City, and the Country round about;⁸⁰ and that to carry the Scheme into Execution, they will be obliged to have recourse to the Military power, for assistance. If this should be the case, you are hereby required, during my absence, to afford every aid which the said Congress or their secret Comee. shall apply for [(consistent with the general Plan of defence now going on) to carry these measures into execution provided it does not interfere too much with our general Plan of defence in weakening this place by].⁸¹

I need not recommend secrecy to you, as the success, you must be assured will depend absolutely upon precaution, and the dispatch with which the measure, when once adopted,

80. On May 19 Gouverneur Morris and John Morin Scott reported to the New York Provincial Congress that they had interviewed General Washington on the subject of these rumored Tory plots and found that a scheme of cooperation was on foot between the Connecticut and Long Island Tories. Measures were taken by the Congress and several arrests were made. (See note to Washington's letter to the New York Legislature, Aug. 11, 1776, *post.*)

81. The words within brackets in this letter were stricken out by Washington in the letter sent.

3

is executed.

General Green will, tho' not in person perhaps, have a principal share in ordering the detachments from his Brigade on Long Island, of course will be a proper Person to let into the whole Plan. I wd.

therefore when application is made by Congress, have you and him concert Measures with such Gentlemen as that body shall please to appoint and order the execution with as much secrecy and dispatch as possible and at the same time with the utmost decency and good order.

3

To MAJOR PETER SCHUYLER⁵²

Head Quarters, New York, June 10, 1776.

Sir: Immediately upon Receipt of this Order, you are to repair to Long Island, and take upon you the Command of three Companies belonging to your Regiment, posted towards the East End thereof, for the Defence of the Inhabitants, Protection of the Stock &c. To effect these Ends, you are to use every Means in your Power; as it is of great Importance to prevent the Enemy from obtaining Supplies of fresh Provisions, and other Necessaries.

52. Major of the Third New York Regiment.

3

You are also to prevent, as far as in your Power lies, all Kind of Correspondence and Intercourse between the Inhabitants and the Enemy, seizing upon and carrying before the Committees of Safety for Trial all those who shall be detected in such infamous Practices.

You are to see, that your Men are kept close to their Duty, and not suffered under any Pretence to be absent on Furlough, but in Cases of great and real Necessity, and then, that not more than two at a Time from each Company, be indulged.

You are to view the Men and inspect their Arms so soon as you arrive at their respective Posts, and make exact Return thereof.

Make your Quarters as central as you can and advise me from Time to Time of all remarkable Occurrences.

***To WILLIAM BEDLOW, AND THE OTHER COMMISIONERS AT THE FORTS MONTGOMERY AND CONSTITUTION⁵³**

June, 10, 1776.

Gentn: Unacquainted as I am with the Situation of the Posts in the Highlands, I can do no more than desire you will pursue, and with as much Dispatch as possible, the Plan of Work pointed out in the within Directions. I am, Gentn., etc.

53. The commissioners had been appointed by the New York Provincial Congress. They were William Bedlow and Jonathan Lawrence at Fort Constitution and Thomas Palmer and Gilbert Livingston at Fort Montgomery. They had written Washington (June 9) asking for decisions on a number of questions. A copy of their letter is in the *Washington Papers*, but the directions referred to in his letter are not found.

3

To COLONEL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters, New York, July 21, 1776.

Sir: The Bearer Lt. Machine I have sent to act as an Engineer in the Posts under your Command, and at such other Places as may be thought necessary. He is an ingenious Man and has given great Satisfaction as an Engineer at Boston, from which he is just returned.

I have received from the secret Committee, a Representation of your Want of Matrosses, which can be supplied in no other Way, but by drafting those that are proper, from other Corps, and exercising them to the Artillery. It is what we have been obliged to do here.

The Men thus drafted may be considered as remaining with their own Regiments, and only doing Duty with the Train on the present Occasion. I am etc.

3

To LIEUTENANT THOMAS MACHIN

Head Quarters, New York, July 21, 1776.

Sir: You are without Delay to proceed for Fort Montgomery or Constitution in the High Lands on Hudson's River, and there put yourself under Command of Colonel James Clinton or commanding

Officer there, to act as Engineer in compleating such Works, as are or may be laid out for the Defence of the River, and adjacent Defiles on each Side the River.

Your being steady and giving close Attention to this Business is necessary. 'Tis, therefore, expected and required of you, that you personally attend where you may be most wanted to forward the Works.

In Case of an Attack from the Enemy, or in any Engagement with them, you are to join the Train of Artillery on that Station, and act according to your Office. I am, etc.